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## **Federal Highway and NDDOT send a team of specialists to evaluate ND Highway 22 north of Killdeer and other state highways in western North Dakota today**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and Federal Highway Administration have sent a team of experts to evaluate ND Highway 22 (approximately 18 miles north of Killdeer just south of the Lost Bridge, Little Missouri River) today. The highway was closed on Friday, May 20, due to the ground shifting the embankment the roadway is constructed on, causing a drop off in the pavement surface, making it impassable. Additional moisture and wet conditions in the area have been the major cause of the unsafe road conditions in western North Dakota.

The team is conducting an on-site evaluation of NDDOT's proposed design for permanent repair on ND Highway 22 and for building a temporary bypass to move traffic during the construction and repair project. "The team members include engineers and geotechnical specialists with national experience in dealing with this type of roadway issue," stated Francis Ziegler, NDDOT Director. "We know how important this roadway and other state highways in western North Dakota are to the traveling public. We are working hard to find a solution that will allow traffic to move safely in the area."

The review team is also monitoring and reviewing other state highways in western North Dakota including US Highway 85, ND 73 and ND 8.

Once the field review and onsite evaluation is completed, the NDDOT will inform the public this week of what will take place to repair and open the roadway on ND Highway 22.

Currently, local traffic only will be allowed on ND 22 from the Junction of ND Hwy 200 at Killdeer north approximately 18 miles (RP 124) and southbound from the Junction of ND 23 to the Lost Bridge. Local traffic will NOT be allowed to travel on ND Hwy 22 from the Lost Bridge south 3 miles. This area of roadway will be closed.

Motorists should use the following detour:

**Northbound traffic:** Head west on ND Hwy 200 to ND Hwy 85. Turn north onto US Hwy 85 to Watford City. Turn east onto ND Hwy 23 to New Town.

**Southbound traffic:** Head west on ND Hwy 23 to Watford City. Turn south onto US Hwy 85 at Watford City to ND Highway 200. Turn east onto ND Hwy 200 to Killdeer.

**I-94 eastbound traffic:** Exit at Belfield (Exit 42). Then go north on US Hwy 85 to Watford City. Turn east on ND Hwy 23 to New Town.

When a road is closed it is illegal to go around barricades and motorists can be fined. This roadway will be closed until further notice.

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